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SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT -- FIELD VISIT TO GOMA, ZAIRE

1. SUMMARY: ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, LT. COL TONY MARLEY AND U.S. SENATE STAFFER CAROLYN REYNOLDS TRAVELED ROUND TRIP FROM KIGALI, RWANDA TO GOMA, ZAIRE VIA ROAD. THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION WAS FOURFOLD: 1) TO EVALUATE THE STATUS OF THE RETURN OF REFUGEES FROM ZAIRE TO RWANDA; 2) TO INVESTIGATE CHANGING CONDITIONS IN GOMA 3) TO ASSIST A TEAM FROM SAVE THE CHILDREN/US IN CARRYING OUT AN INITIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR A PROGRAM TO AID RWANDAN REFUGEE CHILDREN; AND 4) TO ASSIST AMERICARES IN IDENTIFYING A LOCATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIELD HOSPITAL ALONG THE KIGALI-GISENYE (TEXT GARBLED) 4 - 5,000. THIS NUMBER WAS REASONABLY CONSISTENT, IF A BIT LOWER, THAN NUMBERS REPORTED ON PREVIOUS MISSIONS CONDUCTED ON 30 JULY AND 1 AUGUST. THIS FIGURE IS NOT BELIEVED TO CAPTURE THE TOTAL NUMBER FOR RETURNING REFUGEES HOWEVER AS LARGE

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NUMBERS APPEAR TO BE ENTERING RWANDA AT POINT. OTHER THAN THE OFFICIAL BORDER CROSSING AT GOMA-GISENYES, AND COMING INTO THE MAIN ROAD AT POINTS BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF NYUNDO AND MUTURA. THE STEADY PROGRESSION OF REFUGEES TO POINTS EASTWARD WAS EVIDENT, AS THE NUMBER GATHERED AT RUHENGIRI

STADIUM, THE DESIGNATED SITE FOR THOSE DESIRING TRANSPORT TO KIGALI, HAD GROWN APPROXIMATELY THREEFOLD SINCE 30 JULY TO AT LEAST 500 PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES OBSERVED ON THE ROAD AT POINTS PAST RUHENGIRI WAS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN SEEN ON THE PREVIOUS DAYS.

2. THE TEAM TOURED NDOSHA CHILDREN'S CAMP IN GOMA, CURRENTLY HOUSING ABOUT 3,000 RWANDAN CHILDREN. ACCORDING
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TO UNICEF, THIS CAMP IS THE LARGEST OF SEVERAL IN THE AREA THAT ARE ACCOMMODATING MORE THAN 5,500 CHILDREN. THE CAMP IS LOCATED ON THE ROAD WEST OF TOWN, ON THE PREMISES OF AN ORPHANAGE THAT PREVIOUSLY HOUSED JUST 40 ZAIRIAN CHILDREN. THESE ORPHANS WERE MOVED TO THE DIRECTOR'S HOUSE, SO AS TO RETAIN THE MISSION OF THE ORPHANAGE AND MAKE WAY FOR THE REFUGEE CHILDREN. THE CAMP IS STAFFED BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, ONE BRITISH PEDIATRICIAN, ONE NURSE PRACTITIONER, AND APPROXIMATELY 100 ASSISTANTS, INCLUDING CATHOLIC SISTERS, ZAIRIAN BOY SCOUTS, AND MANY OF THE OLDER REFUGEE CHILDREN. WFP, IRISH GOAL AND UNICEF HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING THE CAMP WITH FOOD AND MEDICINES BUT PERSONNEL ARE IN DRAMATICALLY SHORT SUPPLY. THE MAJORITY OF THE CHILDREN ARE UNACCOMPANIED, ALTHOUGH SOME DO ARRIVE WITH MOTHERS AND/OR FAMILIES, AND SOME OF THE MOTHERS ARE ASKED TO STAY AND SUPERVISE GROUPS OF THE CHILDREN AT THE CAMP. THERE ARE TWO PERMANENT STRUCTURES, AND THE REST OF THE CHILDREN STAY IN TENTS; THE FACILITY IS FAR OVERLOADED, AND THE DIRECTORS HAVE ASKED UNICEF TO STOP BRINGING IN ADDITIONAL CHILDREN UNTIL NEW STRUCTURES CAN BE ESTABLISHED AND MORE PERSONNEL OBTAINED.

THE CONDITION OF MOST OF THE CHILDREN IS VERY POOR. THE MAJORITY ARE MALNOURISHED AND/OR DEHYDRATED AND A LARGE NUMBER ARE SICK WITH CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, OR PNEUMONIA. FRENCH MILITARY ARE CURRENTLY ASSISTING WITH THE DIGGING OF NEW LATRINES AS WELL AS FACILITIES FOR FEEDING AND HOUSING, BUT THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT SUPERVISION MEANS THAT MANY CHILDREN ARE PRACTICING UNHEALTHY HYGIENE, CONTRIBUTING TO THE RAPID SPREAD OF DISEASE IN THE CAMP.

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINE CHILDREN HAVE DIED AT THE CAMP IN THE LAST WEEK. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS SECURITY: THE DIRECTORS REPORTED THAT 10 WORKERS HIRED BY IRISH GOAL WERE IDENTIFIED TO BE MEMBERS OF INTERHAMWE. AFTER SOME INITIAL DIFFICULTY, THEY WERE REMOVED BY THE ZAIRIIS ARMY (FAZ). THIS INCIDENT HAS FORCED THE AGENCIES TO BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHO THEY ARE HIRING. THE DIRECTOR MADE A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR BARBED WIRE AND MILITARY SUPPORT TO PROVIDE A MORE SECURE ENVIRONMENT

AROUND THE CAMP.

THE CHILDREN ARE REGISTERED WHEN THEY ENTER THE CAMP WITH ASSISTANTS TAKING DOWN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS IS AVAILABLE ON TRACING FORMS SUPPLIED BY ICRC. EACH CHILD IS THEN GIVEN AN IDENTIFICATION WRISTBAND TO WEAR. SAVE/UK AND SAVE/US PLAN TO ASSIST ICRC IN THE TRACING PROCESS: SAVE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR EFFORT IN MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE. HOWEVER, THE SAVE REPRESENTATIVES POINTED OUT THAT THE RWANDAN EFFORT WILL BE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED, GIVEN THE NUMBERS OF DEATHS AND THE FACT THAT THE REFUGEE RETURN HAS ALREADY BEGUN. MANY OF THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ABANDONED AT UNICEF AND AT THESE CAMPS BY THEIR FAMILIES, WHO FEEL THEY WILL HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVING IF THEY LEAVE THEM BEHIND. THIS SITUATION RAISES AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR HUMANITARIAN AID EFFORTS: IN THE RUSH TO AID RETURNING REFUGEES, WE SHOULD NOT NEGLECT THESE CHILDREN AND OTHERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO LEAVE THE GOMA AREA WITH FAMILY MEMBERS.

3. THE TEAM ENCOUNTERED APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN ROADBLOCKS

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BETWEEN KIGALI AND GISENYE. SOME PREVIOUS ROADBLOCKS HAD BEEN DISMANTLED AND NEW ONES ERECTED IN OTHER SITES. THE TEAM HAD NO PROBLEMS IN PASSING THROUGH THESE ROADBLOCKS, HOWEVER, AND THE SECURITY SITUATION ALONG THE ENTIRE ROUTE REMAINS STABLE. REGISTRATION ON THE ZAIRIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER WAS THE SOLE REQUIREMENT FOR RE-ENTRY INTO RWANDA FROM ZAIRE.

4. ALONG THE ROUTE, SEVERAL SITES WERE INVESTIGATED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMERICARES FIELD HOSPITAL. AS OF 1 AUGUST, THERE ARE CURRENTLY THREE MEDICAL AID STATIONS IN OPERATION BETWEEN RUHengeri AND GISENYE, AT THE TOWNS OF MUKINGO, KORA AND REBAVU. THE MUKINGO AND REBAVU SITES ARE BEING OPERATED BY MSF. THESE STATIONS ALL HANDLE CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, ORT, AND BASIC HEALTH CARE; THE LARGEST OF THESE SITES, AT MUKINGO, IS HANDLING ABOUT 300 CASES A DAY. TO COMPLEMENT THESE POSITIONS' THE NEW SITES ALONG THIS ROUTE THAT WERE RECOMMENDED BY UNREO AND THE

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CRISIS COMMITTEE AT A 1 AUGUST MEETING OF NGOS WERE AT NKULI AND MUTURA. HOWEVER, THE TEAM LEARNED EN ROUTE THAT THE CANADIAN MILITARY MEDICAL COMPANY DEPLOYED AS PART OF UNAMIR INTENDS TO SET UP A CLINIC AT MUTURA WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. THE TEAM IDENTIFIED ANOTHER POSSIBLE SITE AT NYUNDO' BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION AT THE PEAK OF A SHARP CLIMB FROM GISENYE, AVAILABILITY OF OPEN SPACE, AND ITS LOCATION AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE ROAD HEADING SOUTHWARD TO KIBUYE. NO AID STATION HAS OF YET BEEN ESTABLISHED TO

SUPPORT REFUGEES MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A CLEAR NEED FOR NEW STATIONS TO OFFER FOOD AND WATER TO REFUGEES, AS THESE ARE NOT BEING PROVIDED AT THE
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EXISTING STATIONS. UNREO'S GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH STATIONS EVERY 10-15 KM BETWEEN GISENYE AND RUHENGARI, AND WOULD ALSO LIKE TO QUICKLY ESTABLISH STATIONS BETWEEN RUHENGARI AND KIGALI.

5. THE SITUATION IN GOMA TOWN HAS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE LAST TEN DAYS. REFUGEES HAVE LARGELY BEEN MOVED OUT OF THE TOWN, AND BODY COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL APPEARS TO BE UNDER CONTROL, AS NO DEAD WERE SEEN ALONG THE ROADSIDE. THE ROADS LEADING TO THE AIRPORT AND NORTH OF TOWN ARE STILL CLOGGED WITH PEOPLE, HOWEVER, WHO ARE EITHER WALKING OR WHO HAVE SET UP CAMP. THERE ALSO REMAINS A PROBLEM WITH PERSON MILLING ABOUT ON THE AIRSTRIP.

6. ASMARA, BUJUMBURA, KHARTOUM AND LUANDA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SPERO

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